

What is claimed is:

1. A book cover formed from an elastomeric polymer material, comprising:
 - 5 an outside surface adapted to generally cover the exterior surfaces of a book; and
 - 10 pocket portions adapted to receive at least a portion of the covers of the book.
- 10 2. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the pocket portions form a generally elliptically-shaped access slot.
- 15 3. The book cover of claim 2, wherein the access slot is adapted to be substantially aligned with and parallel to the spine of the book.
4. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the pocket portions are adapted to receive substantially all of the covers of the book.
- 20 5. The book cover of claim 1, wherein periphery edges of the book cover are reinforced.
6. The book cover of claim 5, wherein said periphery edges are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.
- 25 7. The book cover of claim 6, wherein said periphery edges are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.
8. The book cover of claim 1, wherein edge portions of the access slot are reinforced.
- 30 9. The book cover of claim 8, wherein said edge portions are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

10. The book cover of claim 10, wherein said edge portions are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

11. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover is of unitary
5 construction.

12. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover is molded.

13. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover is of substantially
10 uniform thickness.

14. The book cover of claim 1, wherein peripheral edge portions of the book cover have at least one groove adapted to secure the book cover around the book perimeter.

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15. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubbers and latex.

16. The book cover of claim 2, wherein the access slot includes a recess
20 adapted to engage top and bottom spine portions of the book.

17. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual effect.

25 18. The book cover of claim 17, wherein the book cover is colored.

19. The book cover of claim 18, wherein the book cover is formed of a plurality of differently colored materials.

30 20. The book cover of claim 17, wherein the book cover is transparent.

21. The book cover of claim 17, wherein the book cover is opaque.

22. The book cover of claim 17, wherein the book cover contains an image thereon.

23. The book cover of claim 17, wherein the book cover contains a 5 plurality of reflective particles.

24. The book cover of claim 23, wherein the reflective particles are suspended in the elastomeric polymer material.

10 25. The book cover of claim 23, wherein the reflective particles are imprinted on at least one surface of the book cover.

26. The book cover of claim 1, wherein at least one surface of the book cover is textured.

15 27. The book cover of claim 26, wherein said texturing increases the grip of the book cover.

28. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover includes at least 20 one visual indicia.

29. The book cover of claim 1, wherein the book cover is waterproof.

30. A book cover formed from an elastomeric material, comprising: 25 an outside surface adapted to generally cover the exterior surfaces of a book; and
pocket portions adapted to receive at least a portion of the covers of the book, the pocket portions forming a generally elliptically-shaped access slot.

30 31. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the access slot is adapted to be substantially aligned with and parallel to the spine of the book.

32. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the pocket portions are adapted to receive substantially all of the covers of the book.

33. The book cover of claim 30, wherein periphery edges of the book cover are reinforced.

5 34. The book cover of claim 33, wherein said periphery edges are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

35. The book cover of claim 34, wherein said periphery edges are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

10 36. The book cover of claim 30, wherein edge portions of the access slot are reinforced.

15 37. The book cover of claim 36, wherein said edge portions are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

38. The book cover of claim 37, wherein said edge portions are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

20 39. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is of unitary construction.

40. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is molded.

25 41. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is of substantially uniform thickness.

30 42. The book cover of claim 30, wherein peripheral edge portions of the book cover have at least one groove adapted to secure the book cover around the book perimeter.

43. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubbers and latex.

44. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the access slot includes a recess adapted to engage top and bottom spine portions of the book.

45. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover includes at least 5 one visual effect.

46. The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is colored.

47. The book cover of claim 46, wherein the book cover is formed of a 10 plurality of differently colored materials.

48. The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is transparent.

49. The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover is opaque.

15 50. The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover contains an image thereon.

20 51. The book cover of claim 45, wherein the book cover contains a plurality of reflective particles.

52. The book cover of claim 51, wherein the reflective particles are suspended in the elastomeric polymer material.

25 53. The book cover of claim 51, wherein the reflective particles are imprinted on at least one surface of the book cover.

54. The book cover of claim 30, wherein at least one surface of the book cover is textured.

30 55. The book cover of claim 54, wherein said texturing increases the grip of the book cover.

56. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual indicia.

57. The book cover of claim 30, wherein the book cover is waterproof.

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58. A book cover comprising:
an outside surface adapted to generally cover the exterior surfaces of a book; and
pocket portions adapted to receive at least a portion of the covers of the
10 book,
wherein the book cover is formed from a silicone rubber.

59. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the pocket portions form a generally elliptically-shaped access slot.

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60. The book cover of claim 59, wherein the access slot is adapted to be substantially aligned with and parallel to the spine of the book.

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61. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the pocket portions are adapted to receive substantially all of the covers of the book.

62. The book cover of claim 58, wherein periphery edges of the book cover are reinforced.

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63. The book cover of claim 62, wherein said periphery edges are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

64. The book cover of claim 63, wherein said periphery edges are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

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65. The book cover of claim 58, wherein edge portions of the access slot are reinforced.

66. The book cover of claim 65, wherein said edge portions are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

67. The book cover of claim 66, wherein said edge portions are at least 5 twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

68. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover is of unitary construction.

10 69. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover is molded.

70. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover is of substantially uniform thickness.

15 71. The book cover of claim 58, wherein peripheral edge portions of the book cover have at least one groove adapted to secure the book cover around the book perimeter.

20 72. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the silicone rubber is a vinyl methyl silicone.

73. The book cover of claim 59, wherein the access slot includes a recess adapted to engage top and bottom spine portions of the book.

25 74. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover is waterproof.

75. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual effect.

30 76. The book cover of claim 75, wherein the book cover is colored.

77. The book cover of claim 76, wherein the book cover is formed of a plurality of differently colored materials.

78. The book cover of claim 75, wherein the book cover is transparent.

79. The book cover of claim 75, wherein the book cover is opaque.

5 80. The book cover of claim 75, wherein the book cover contains an image thereon.

81. The book cover of claim 75, wherein the book cover contains a plurality of reflective particles.

10 82. The book cover of claim 81, wherein the reflective particles are suspended in the elastomeric polymer material.

15 83. The book cover of claim 81, wherein the reflective particles are imprinted on at least one surface of the book cover.

84. The book cover of claim 58, wherein at least one surface of the book cover is textured.

20 85. The book cover of claim 84, wherein said texturing increases said grip of the book cover.

86. The book cover of claim 58, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual indicia.

25 87. A book cover comprising:
an outside surface adapted to generally cover the exterior surfaces of a book; and
30 book,
wherein the book cover is formed from latex.

88. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the pocket portions form a generally elliptically-shaped access slot.

89. The book cover of claim 88, wherein the access slot is adapted to be substantially aligned with and parallel to the spine of the book.

5 90. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the pocket portions are adapted to receive substantially all of the covers of the book.

91. The book cover of claim 87, wherein periphery edges of the book cover are reinforced.

10 92. The book cover of claim 91, wherein said periphery edges are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

15 93. The book cover of claim 92, wherein said periphery edges are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

94. The book cover of claim 87, wherein edge portions of the access slot are reinforced.

20 95. The book cover of claim 94, wherein said edge portions are reinforced by the material of the book cover being thicker thereat.

96. The book cover of claim 95, wherein said edge portions are at least twice as thick as unreinforced portions of the book cover.

25 97. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover is of unitary construction.

98. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover is molded.

30 99. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover is of substantially uniform thickness.

100. The book cover of claim 87, wherein peripheral edge portions of the book cover have at least one groove adapted to secure the book cover around the book perimeter.

5 101. The book cover of claim 88, wherein the access slot includes a recess adapted to engage top and bottom spine portions of the book.

102. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover is waterproof.

10 103. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual effect.

104. The book cover of claim 103, wherein the book cover is colored.

15 105. The book cover of claim 104, wherein the book cover is formed of a plurality of differently colored materials.

106. The book cover of claim 103, wherein the book cover is transparent.

20 107. The book cover of claim 103, wherein the book cover is opaque.

108. The book cover of claim 103, wherein the book cover contains an image thereon.

25 109. The book cover of claim 103, wherein the book cover contains a plurality of reflective particles.

110. The book cover of claim 109, wherein the reflective particles are suspended in the elastomeric polymer material.

30 111. The book cover of claim 109, wherein the reflective particles are imprinted on at least one surface of the book cover.

112. The book cover of claim 87, wherein at least on surface of the book cover is textured.

113. The book cover of claim 112, wherein said texturing increases the grip 5 of the book cover.

114. The book cover of claim 87, wherein the book cover includes at least one visual indicia.